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THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND OTHER RECORDS  
FOR 1952.

W. AITCHISON, M.C., M.A., B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B.,  
D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DURHAM  
G. BAILES & SONS, PRINTERS, ETC.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

W. AITCHISON, M.C., M.A., B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M. & H.,  
D.P.H. (RESIGNED 3RD MARCH, 1952—POSITION VACANT  
FOR REMAINDER OF YEAR).

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR :

LESLIE OATES, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR :

JOHN BITTLESTONE, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

RODENT OFFICER :

MR. A. T. SMITH.

CLERICAL STAFF :

MRS. J. WILBY, Clerk.

MISS ALICE BARRASS, Shorthand Typist.

DURHAM,

July, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for the year 1952.

The number of cases of Diphtheria continues to fall there being only one confirmed case in 1952 compared with fifteen such cases in 1942. Over the last ten years there has been, throughout the country, a steady decrease in this disease corresponding with the increase in diphtheria immunisation, but the Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, is very concerned lest there be a falling off of immunisation and a consequent return to a high incidence of this dangerous disease.

There were five cases of Poliomyelitis during the year, three paralytic and two non-paralytic. Only two of these were City cases the remaining three having been admitted to Dryburn Hospital from other local authorities areas. Over the past ten years the confirmed cases total 17 (13 paralytic and 4 non-paralytic) of which ten were City cases. The Medical Research Council with the support of the Ministry of Health are actively conducting research into various aspects of the disease and it is hoped that their endeavours will meet with speedy success and result in some form of satisfactory control of this disease.

The infant mortality rate of 19.4 was the lowest since 1919 (this being the earliest record available in the Department). The figure for England and Wales was 27.6 and for the Administrative County of Durham 33, a comparison which is very favourable to Durham City for the year under review.

The death rate also shows a reduction and is below that of the average for the County and of England and Wales.

Apart from the cases of Poliomyelitis there has been, during the year 1952, nothing to cause the Department concern in relation to infectious diseases.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

## THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.

## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

## AND OTHER RECORDS

for 1952.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres ... 4,029.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population 1951 :—20,240

Do. do. 1952 :—19,960

Number of inhabited houses end of 1951 :—5,464.

Do. 1952 :—5,508.

Rateable value, 1951 :—£134,043 ; 1952 :—£138,713.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate, 1951 :—£535 8s. 2d.

1952 :—£550 14s. 11d.

## UNEMPLOYMENT.

The estimated number of unemployed in the City at 31st December, 1951 and 1952 was as follows :—

			<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Boys</i> <i>(Between 15 &amp; 17 yrs.).</i>	<i>Girls</i>
1951	...	...	120	60	18	27
1952	...	...	120	40	3	4



## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

## BIRTHS.

Live Births :—	TOTAL.	M.	F.	
Legitimate .....	303	154	149	Birth-rate (per 1,000 population) 15·53.
Illegitimate .....	7	6	1	

## Stillbirths :—

Legitimate .....	7	2	5	Rate (per 1,000 total births) 25·16.
Illegitimate .....	1	1	—	

## DEATHS.

203	119	84	Death-rate (per 1,000 population) 10·17.
-----	-----	----	---

## DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :—

All infants, per 1,000 live births .....	19
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate births .....	19
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate births .....	—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	25
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	—
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) .....	—

## DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

All Ages.	0—1	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—
203	6	—	2	1	1	9	47	137

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND INFANT MORTALITY  
OVER TEN YEARS.

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Birth Rate	16·8	17·9	15·5	21·7	20·0	17·9	15·4	16·8	14·4	15·5
Death Rate	14·5	14·3	11·3	12·2	13·3	9·9	11·0	10·9	11·0	10·1
Infant Mortality	50	66	55	38	49	32	35	22	47	19

TABLE COMPARING THE BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE  
AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1952  
OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., WITH THAT FOR DURHAM  
CITY.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		Death Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years.	Total deaths under one year.
England and Wales ...	15·3	0·35	11·3	1·1	27·6
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ... ..	16·9	0·43	12·1	1·3	31·2
160 Smaller Towns, (Esti- mated Resident Popu- lations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931) ... ..	15·5	0·36	11·2	0·5	25·8
London ... ..	17·6	0·34	12·6	0·7	23·8
Administrative County of Durham ... ..	17·3	0·45	10·9	1·54	33
Durham City ... ..	15·5	0·40	10·1	—	19·3



## CAUSES OF DEATH IN DURHAM BOROUGH, 1952.

Cause of Death.	Total	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES .. .. .	203	119	84
Tuberculosis, respiratory .. .. .	3	2	1
Tuberculosis, other .. .. .	1	—	1
Syphilitic disease .. .. .	1	1	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—	—
Whooping cough .. .. .	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections .. .. .	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis .. .. .	—	—	—
Measles .. .. .	1	1	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases .. .. .	2	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. .. .	8	5	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .. .. .	2	2	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast .. .. .	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. .. .	1	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. .. .	13	7	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .	1	1	—
Diabetes .. .. .	3	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	21	10	11
Coronary disease, angina .. .. .	23	16	7
Hypertension with heart disease .. .. .	2	2	—
Other heart disease .. .. .	37	16	21
Other circulatory disease .. .. .	8	6	2
Influenza .. .. .	—	—	—
Pneumonia .. .. .	9	3	6
Bronchitis .. .. .	9	7	2
Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	4	3	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. .. .	1	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. .. .	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	3	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	1	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. .	—	—	—
Congenital malformations .. .. .	2	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. .	36	24	12
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	—	—	—
All other accidents .. .. .	5	4	1
Suicide .. .. .	5	3	2
Homicide and operations of war .. .. .	—	—	—

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REPORTED DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox .....	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	19	18	—
Diphtheria .....	1	1	—
Enteric Fever.....	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	7	7	—
Pneumonia .....	1	1	9
Erysipelas.....	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection.....	4	4	—
Poliomyelitis .....	5	5	—
Whooping Cough.....	57	—	—
Malaria .....	—	—	—
Measles .....	236	2	1
Paratyphoid Fever.....	2	2	—

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF SCARLET FEVER AND  
DIPHTHERIA.

Ages ...	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	2	2	11	1	1	—	1	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1 .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
5 — 10 .....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10 — 15 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25 .....	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35 .....	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35 — 45 .....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55 .....	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55 — 65 .....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and Upwards ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS .....	6	3	1	2	2	1	—	1

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY  
INSPECTOR.

DURHAM,  
July, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1952.

Repairs to privately owned properties are likely to present increasing difficulties as no legislation appears to be forthcoming for increasing rents although cost of repairs continues to advance.

Nevertheless most of the requests for repairs to be carried out have met with a fairly prompt response and little legal action has been necessary to enforce the provisions of the Public Health Acts.

Slum Clearance is now receiving some attention by those local authorities having serious slum problems. The number of outworn and insanitary properties in Durham is very limited and, as some properties already condemned are still in use and provide temporary accommodation to families on the Council's housing list, it would appear that no new slum clearance work will be undertaken for some time.

Costs of providing and maintaining council houses have increased rapidly since the war and a number of families are finding the rents on the post war estates are beyond their means. Perhaps some answer to this problem may be found in systematic reconditioning and improvement of suitable existing houses, not by individual owner/occupiers alone taking advantage of the Housing Act, 1949 (Improvement Grants) but by local authorities dealing with streets or blocks of houses, saving them from further deterioration and providing them with modern amenities on the lines of experiments recently made by private firms at Stockton and Croydon.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their kindly support during the past year and also to acknowledge the assistance and co-operation of Mr. Bittlestone and the Staff of the Health Department and other Officials of the Council.

I am Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LESLIE OATES,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

# SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1952.

I.—PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Notices Complied.
Dwelling-houses and Schools—			
Foul Conditions ... ..	3	—	3
Structural Defects ... ..	115	11	103
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—
Lodging-houses ... ..	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	—	—	—
Cowsheds ... ..	—	—	—
Bake houses ... ..	3	—	3
Slaughter-houses ... ..	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies ... ..	9	—	8
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	6	—	6
Waterclosets ... ..	18	1	18
Defective Yard Paving ... ..	1	—	1
House Drainage—			
Defective Traps ... ..	2	—	2
No Disconnection from Sewers	—	—	—
Other Faults ... ..	27	10	27
Water Supply ... ..	1	—	1
Pigsties ... ..	1	—	1
Animals Improperly Kept ... ..	—	—	—
Offensive Trades ... ..	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	2	—	2
Other Nuisances ... ..	5	—	5
Lack of proper Dust Bins ... ..	23	—	20
Fishfriers ... ..	3	—	3
Factories ... ..	6	—	6
Shops ... ..	32	—	32
TOTALS ... ..	257	22	241

## II.—PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ... ..	29
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ... ..	21
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease ... ..	nil
Prosecutions for exposures of infected persons or things ... ..	nil
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things ... ..	nil

## III.—GENERAL.

Number of New Houses erected during year ... ..	67
Number of such Houses occupied during year ... ..	67
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets ... ..	nil
Ashpit-privies converted into Water-closets ... ..	nil
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets ... ..	nil
Total number of Water-closets in District ... ..	6281
Total number of Ash-closets in District ... ..	43
Total number of Ash-pit privies in District ... ..	26



## HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)...	418
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	1,314
2. (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ...	nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	nil
3.	Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	3
4.	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of 3 above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ...	157

## REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of dwelling-houses made fit in consequence of Informal Action by the Local Authority or their Officers...	142
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## ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

## A.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	22
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners...	19
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	3

## B.—Proceedings under sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	nil
(2)	Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners...	nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	nil

## C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil

## D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
---	---

## INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

During the year 1,161 inspections were made of properties in the District. It was found necessary to serve 198 informal notices for the remedying of various public health nuisances and the majority of such notices received the prompt attention of the owners or occupiers of the properties concerned.

In 22 cases of non-compliance statutory notices were served on the owners.

This action resulted in the owners carrying out the necessary works in 19 cases and the Corporation doing the work in default and recovering costs in three cases.

896 visits were made with the object of seeing that notices were complied with.

## HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

During the year under review 67 houses were erected in the City area comprising 54 council houses and 13 privately built houses.

At 31st December, 1952 the number of council houses erected since the war totalled 635.

The total number of houses built for and controlled by the Council, was, at the date mentioned, 1,275. In addition to these properties the Council have the letting, when vacant, of any of the 365 houses owned by the North Eastern Housing Association, Ltd.

In addition to the above new building the Council, in an endeavour to provide additional housing accommodation for single persons, carried out alterations and improvements to a block of property owned by the Council, and previously used as offices.

The property concerned, St. Catherine's House, Allergate, is now occupied by five single persons and one married couple all of whom were previously living in condemned property. A warden and his wife live on the premises and are responsible for cleansing of passages, etc., and general supervision. This experiment in re-housing of single persons has proved to be very successful and, as there are a number of such persons still living in condemned properties who have expressed a preference for this type of accommodation, the Council will, no doubt, endeavour to obtain further properties suitable for adaptation to such use.

Practically all families who were the original tenants of slum clearance properties have now been re-housed by the Council but a number of these properties are still being used to provide temporary accommodation for families living in difficult circumstances but having to await their turn for new houses.

Twelve properties included in slum clearance areas were demolished during the year.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASE DISINFECTION AND VERMIN DISINFESTATION.

46 visits were made in connection with infectious diseases. Disinfection was carried out at 21 premises where bedding and articles of clothing, etc., were also treated.

40 premises, of which 39 were council houses, were disinfested.

## RODENT CONTROL.

*Sewer Maintenance Treatments* : Two maintenance treatments were carried out during the year 1952 in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. A total of 622 manholes were baited showing pre-bait takes in 164 manholes and poison takes in 90 manholes.

*Surface Infestations* : Council properties including Shincliffe tip, sewage works and area surrounding the incinerator were inspected and treated as required.

The Education Authority notify all cases of infestation (usually mice) in school canteens and very prompt and careful attention is given in such cases.

The Council has continued its policy of providing a free service to private houses and, in the case of business premises, making a charge of 5/6d. per hour for the services of their official. This system continues to work quite efficiently though many local business men employ firms specialising in this work to keep their premises free from rodent infestation with the result that the returns from charging costs to firms is quite small.

Full advantage is taken of the Ministry's offer of grant aid which, for the year under review, will be half the irrecoverable expenditure incurred in the performance of functions under Part I of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The following table is a summary of the rodent control work carried out during the year :—

	Dwelling Houses.	Business Premises.	Other Infested Places.	Totals.
No. of Premises Visited ... ..	188	99	60	347
No. of visits ... ..	667	275	224	1,166
No. of Pre-baits ... ..	1,678	998	1,070	3,746
No. of Poison-baits ... ..	520	633	456	1,609
No. of Post-baits ... ..	615	239	261	1,115

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.  
REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1952.

	Type of Property				
	Local Autho- rity.	Dwelling Houses.	Agri- cultural.	All other (including Business and industrial).	Total.
I. Total number of prop- erties in Local Author- ity's District (Notes 1 and 2) .. ..	13	5503	25	721	6262
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result (a) of noti- fication or (b) other- wise .. ..	(a) 6	79	2	48	135
	(b) 7	12	6	17	42
III. Number of properties (under 11) found to be infested by rats ..	Major 4	6	3	17	30
	Minor 7	52	5	10	74
IV. Number of properties (under 11) found to be seriously infested by mice .. ..	NIL	12	NIL	9	21
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority ..	11	70	8	36	125
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4 —(1) Treatment ..	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing) .. ..	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

## DRAINAGE.

The following particulars relate to drainage work carried out by the Department during the year :—

New drainage systems laid	...	...	...	...	13
Drainage systems reconstructed	...	...	...	...	8
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	21
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	27
Inspection chambers built	...	...	...	...	5
Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	...	...	4
Ventilation provided to drains	...	...	...	...	4
New gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	22
Other drainage defects remedied	...	...	...	...	8
Smoke tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	16
Water tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	145
Colour tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	39

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

One licence was granted by the Council under the provisions of Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936, authorising the use of a trailer caravan as a temporary home for a family awaiting a council house.

Frequent visits were made to sites used for short periods by caravans passing through the City in an effort to prevent nuisances being committed but control of such "moveable dwellings" is difficult and rubbish left by tenants of such dwellings has, occasionally, had to be removed by the Council's workmen.

# ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Premises. (1)	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	28	27	5	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	75	34	6	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	9	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> .. ..	<b>108</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>—</b>

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspect'r	By H.M. Inspect'r	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	5	5	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. ..					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .. ..					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. ..					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient .. ..	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .. ..	3	3	—	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	11	11	—	1	—



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## MILK SUPPLY.

The following licences were issued by the Council :—

1. Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949 :—
 

“ Pasteurised ” Milk Dealers Licences	... ..	8
“ Pasteurised ” Milk Dealers Supplementary Licences	...	6
“ Sterilised ” Milk Dealers Licences	... ..	10
2. Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 :—
 

“ Tuberculin Tested ” Milk Dealers Licences	...	1
“ Tuberculin Tested ” Milk Dealers Supplementary Licences	... ..	1

Registered premises have been inspected during the year in order to ensure that the various provisions of the Regulations were being complied with. Only minor offences were observed and the dairymen concerned were interviewed on these particular matters.

## ICE CREAM.

One application for registration under the provisions of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of pre-packed ice cream was approved by the Council making a total of 43 premises registered for this purpose. Two firms are registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

Samples of ice-cream obtained from producers were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratories, Newcastle, for bacteriological examination. Two of the samples obtained were unsatisfactory (Provisional Grades 3 and 4) and further investigation took place in the cases referred to.

## FOOD INSPECTION.

The following list shows the quantities of food that were found upon inspection to be unfit for human consumption. All food condemned was voluntarily surrendered.

Barley Crystals 39 tins.	Dates 18 packets.
Beef 85 lb.	Fish 12½ st.
Beef Suet ½ lb.	Fish 19 tins.
Cake 4 lb.	Fish Paste 6 jars.
Cake Mixture 3 lb.	Fruit 235 tins.
Cheese 43¼ lb.	Fruit Juice 57 tins.
Cheese 165 pkts.	Jam 8 jars.
Chicken 32 lb.	Loaves 26.
Coconut 27 lb.	Luncheon Meat 18 lbs.

Meat 787 tins.	Sandwich Spread 2 tins.
Milk 36 tins.	Sauce 4 bottles.
Milk Compound 12 packets.	Sausage 7 tins.
Nescafe 1 tin.	Sausage 17½ lb.
Pies 53.	Soup 37 tins.
Pickles 244 jars.	Vegetables 680 tins.
Pork Chops 56 lbs.	Vinegar 12 jars.
Prunes 61 lb.	Christmas Puddings 2.
Rabbits 9.	

### FOOD PREMISES — GENERAL.

#### *Inspections :—*

During the course of the year 371 visits were made to food premises. Any unsatisfactory conditions observed during such inspections received the prompt attention of the food traders concerned. Whenever possible improvements, through the co-operation of the traders, were carried out to increase the efficiency of hygienic arrangements in shops and interviews with traders re suggested future improvements are receiving attention. One of the difficulties many of Durham's traders have to contend with is lack of access to their premises from back streets and congestion in back premises making among other disadvantages storage and disposal of waste matters difficult.

#### *Lectures :—*

A number of lectures on public health matters, with particular reference to food hygiene, were given to various organisations. The time allotted to questions at the end of such lectures shows that the public have a keen interest in the work of their public health department.

#### *Food Poisoning :*

During the year 1952 no notifications of food poisoning were received.

### SHOPS ACT, 1950.

45 visits were paid to shops in order to ascertain if the provisions of the Shops Acts were being complied with. The following sanitary defects were found and subsequently remedied by the shop-keepers concerned :—

Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	5
Offensive accumulation	...	...	...	...	1
To cleanse walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	6
Defective sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	—
Insufficient washing facilities	...	...	...	...	2
Other defects	...	...	...	...	8



## PREVENTION OF LITTER.

The amount of litter deposited in the City's streets and open spaces received the attention of the Health Committee.

The Committee considered all aspects of the problem and decided that active steps should be taken to overcome this nuisance in the following manner :—

1. Survey City with a view to providing extra litter bins wherever necessary.
2. Prepare a propaganda film in colour.
3. Request the help of all local organisations and the Press.
4. Prepare or obtain suitable posters and advertising matter.
5. Hold a special " Keep Durham Tidy " week.

The Council agreed to expenditure on the project up to the product of a  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. rate, a suitable colour film was prepared and all necessary steps taken to hold the proposed " Keep Durham Tidy " campaign in 1953 (Coronation Year).

## SUMMARY OF WORK OF SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	275
Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	418
Houses re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	896
Visits under Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Visits to food shops and food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	389
Visits under Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Visits in connection with defective or new drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	140
Smoke and water tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Visits to cases of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Lots of bedding, clothing, etc. disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Library books disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Visits to verminous houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Verminous premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Interviews with owners, contractors, complainants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	416
Visits to caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Inspections of rivers and streams	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Inspections of common yards and passages	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Inspections of public sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Visits in connection with Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,166
Miscellaneous sanitary inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	466

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The work under this Act is performed by an Inspector of the County Council of Durham and during the past year the following samples were submitted by him to the Public Analyst for examination :—

Jam	...	...	...	3	Margarine	...	...	...	2
Pasteurised Milk			...	33	Sugar	...	...	...	2
Lard	...	...	...	2	Table Salt		...	...	1
Cheese	...	...	...	2	Tea	...	...	...	1
Cocoa	...	...	...	1	Mincemeat	...	...	...	1
Coffee	...	...	...	2	Dried Peas		...	...	1
Cornflour	...	...	...	2	Butter	...	...	...	1
Olive Oil	...	...	...	1	Rice	...	...	...	1
Red Wine Vinegar			...	1	Macaroni	...	...	...	1
Custard Powder	...	...	...	2	Ground Rice		...	...	1
Oatmeal	...	...	...	1	Sage	...	...	...	1
Rice Creamola	...	...	...	1					
									—
									64
									==

Two samples of milk were reported to be slightly below standard but did not warrant any further investigation. All the remaining samples were reported genuine.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. J. A. Rodwell, Chief Engineer, Durham County Water Board, has kindly submitted the following brief report on water supplies :—

Again it is pleasing to report that the water supply to the area has been maintained in sufficient quantity and of high bacteriological purity. The additional filters, four in number, mentioned in last year's report to be installed have now been put into commission, making eight in the last two years, so that all the water delivered from Waskerley is now fully filtered. The chlorination plants have worked without any breakdown, thus ensuring pure water.

During the year total lengths of 100 yards of 6" diameter pipes, 197 yards of 4" and 572 yards of 3" diameter pipes were laid in connection with new housing schemes.

The very dry winter rather indicates a severe shortage of water in the coming summer, and everything will have to be done to eliminate wastage and undue use of water. Whilst everything possible is being done by the Board to anticipate and minimise the effects of such a shortage, the various schemes in hand, having been held up so long by lack of Ministry approval, are unlikely to be in operation this year, although work is now proceeding as fast as possible.

## REFUSE COLLECTION, PUBLIC BATHS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following information relating to Refuse Collection, Public Baths, Sewerage and Sewage Works has been supplied by the City Engineer whose Department is responsible for these undertakings.

### REFUSE COLLECTION.

Regular weekly collection of household refuse is maintained throughout the year. Trade refuse is collected as required.

### PUBLIC BATHS.

A four hour turnover with filtration and chlorination is maintained at the swimming pools.

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Plans for the enlargement of the Barker's Haugh Sewage Works are now being prepared and will be forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government at an early date.





